

What is claimed is:

1. A shopping system comprising:

a scanner adapted to scan one or more product tags;

a processing device accessible to a network, the processing device operatively coupled to the scanner;

a client application installed on the processing device, the client application adapted to read scanned data from the scanner and to transfer the data over the network;

a server on the network adapted to receive the transferred data; and

a server application configured to run on the server, the server application adapted to route the transferred data to one or more retailer network sites.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the scanner comprises a wireless and handheld mechanism.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the scanner is adapted to be removable from a downloading cradle that is operatively coupled to the processing device.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the scanner is adapted to decode each of the scanned product tags and to store the values within memory.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the product tags comprise barcodes.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the processing device comprises a personal computer.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the processing device comprises a cell phone.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the processing device comprises a personal digital assistant.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the network comprises an inter-network.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the network comprises a public network.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the server comprises a website.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the server further comprises a database adapted for storing the transferred data.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the client application is adapted to be activated manually by a consumer through the processing device.
- 5 15. The system of claim 1, wherein the client application is adapted to be activated automatically through the coupling of the scanner to the processing device.
16. The system of claim 1, wherein the client application is adapted to create a secure network connection between the processing device and the server.
- 10 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the client application is adapted to create one or more streams of data to transfer.
18. The system of claim 17, wherein the streams of data **are formatted in XML.**
- 15 19. The system of claim 17, wherein each of the one or more streams of data include the scanned data, customer differentiation data, and client application parameters.
- 20 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the server application is adapted to receive and interpret the one or more streams of data.
21. The system of claim 20, wherein the server application is adapted to determine if the scanned data is specific to the one or more retailers based on the client application **parameters.**
- 25 22. The system of claim **21**, wherein the server application is adapted to store the one or more streams of data in a database configured to the server if the scanned data is not specific to one or more retailers.
- 30 23. The system of claim **21**, wherein the server application is adapted to route the one or more streams of data to one or more retailer network sites if the scanned data is specific to the one or more retailers.
- 35 24. The system of claim **17**, further comprising a server controller configured **to run on the server** and adapted to facilitate the transfer of the one or more streams of data to the one or more retailer network sites.
25. A shopping system comprising:
- 40 means for reading and storing one or more product tags;
- a processing device accessible to a network, the processing device operatively coupled to the means;
- 45 a client application installed on the processing device, the client application adapted to read the stored data and to transfer the data over the network;

a server on the network adapted to receive the transferred data; and

a server application configured to run on the server, the server application adapted to route the transferred data to one or more retailer network sites.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the means comprises a scanner.

27. A shopping system comprising:

means for reading and storing one or more product tags, the means being accessible to a network;

a client application installed to the means, the client application adapted to read the stored data and to transfer the data over the network;

a server on the network adapted to receive the transferred data; and

a server application configured to run on the server, the server application adapted to route the transferred data to one or more retailer network sites.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein the means comprises a scanner.

29. A method of shopping comprising:

scanning one or more product tags using a scanner;

coupling the scanner to a processing device accessible to a network;

transferring the scanned data to a server over the network using a client application; and

transferring the scanned data to one or more retailer network sites from the server using a server application.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of scanning the one or more product tags further comprises steps of decoding each of the scanned product tags and storing the values within memory.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of coupling the scanner to a processing device further comprises a step of connecting the scanner to a downloading cradle that is coupled to the processing device.

32. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to the server further comprises a step of activating the client application manually by a consumer through the processing device.

33. The method of claim 29, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to the server further comprises a step of creating a secure network connection between the processing device and the server.

34. The method of claim ~~29~~³⁴, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to the server further comprises a step of creating one or more streams of data to transfer.
- 5 35. The method of claim ~~34~~³⁵, wherein the step of creating one or more streams of data further comprises a step of including the scanned data, customer ~~differentiation data~~^{differentiation data}, and ~~client application parameters in each of the one or more streams of data~~^{data}.
- 10 36. The method of claim ~~35~~³⁶, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to one or more retailer network sites further comprises a step of interpreting the one or more streams of data.
- 15 37. The method of claim ~~36~~³⁷, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to one or more retailer network sites further comprises a step of determining if the scanned data is specific to the one or more retailers based on the client application ~~parameters~~^{parameters}.
- 20 38. The method of claim ~~37~~³⁸, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to one or more retailer network sites further comprises a step of storing the one or more streams of data in a database configured to the server if the scanned data is not specific to the one or more retailers.
- 25 39. The method of claim ~~37~~³⁹, wherein the step of transferring the scanned data to one or more retailer network sites further comprises a step of routing the one or more streams of data to the one or more retailer network sites if the scanned data is specific to the one or more retailers.